Danila B. Oder
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Los Angeles, California 90020-3536

March 13, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

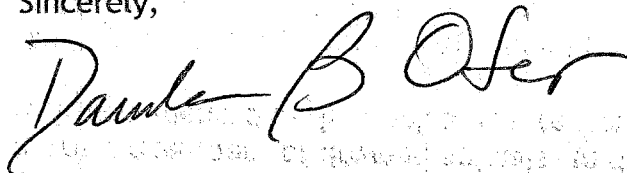   Re: Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

To whom it may concern:

I support a prohibition on the slaughter of downed animals. Downed animals are those animals too sick or injured to stand. Animals too sick to even stand should not enter the human food chain, due to the increased risk of bacterial contamination, and the possibility that some downed cattle may carry the American form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

There is no humane way to move a downed animal; they are typically dragged with chains, or lifted with a forklift, causing suffering and further injuries. The frequently horrific treatment of downed animals—in disregard of the animal welfare laws--is well-documented in the book *Slaughterhouse* by Gail Eisnitz.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing would cause no undue economic hardship. In fact, removing the market for downed animals would encourage better treatment and handling of animals for slaughter, thus preventing most downers in the first place.

There is growing consensus for such a prohibition, even among livestock industry and government officials. Numerous beef, dairy, and pork industry representatives have voiced support for such a prohibition.
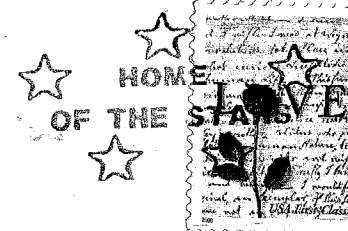
Sincerely,

Danila B. Oder

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